

BRACHYPTEROLUS PULICARIUS (L.) IN
AMERICA (NITIDULIDÆ)¹

BY MELVILLE H. HATCH

Brachypterolus pulicarius (L.). Schaeffer, Bull. Brook. Ent. Soc. XXII, 1927, p. 170.—Hervey, Jr. Econ. Ent. XX, 1927, p. 809–814, fig. 381 (life history, larva).

Heterostomus mordelloides Notman, Jr. N. Y. Ent. Soc. XXVIII, 1920, p. 29 (1 male, 1 female, Essex Co., N. Y., June 28, 1918).—Leng, Suppl. Cat. Col. Am. n. of Mex., 1927, p. 31.

Heterostomus pulicarius (L.). Britten, Jr. Econ. Ent. XV, 1922, p. 311; 24th Rep. St. Ent. Conn. for 1924, 1925, p. 339.—Hatch, Tec. Pub. 17 N. Y. St. Coll. For. XXIV, 1924, p. 297.

Mordelloides Notman is said to be distinguished by the failure of the punctation of the head and propygidium to be finer. I have compared American specimens with examples of *pulicarius* L. and ab. *linariae* Steph. from Moravia and find that the difference, if any, is evanescent. I cite, furthermore, the following evidence that the American examples are cospecific with the European and represent a recent introduction of that species: (1) no records of the species in America previous to 1918; its abundance locally in Mass., Conn., and N. Y. since that date; and its entire absence from other portions of the American continent; (2) the pubescence of American examples is brown, as in European specimens, not gray or white, as in the Siberian *imundas* Reitt. or the Turkestanian *dilutipes* Reitt. If the American specimens represented a native species, one would expect them to resemble their Siberian more closely than their European relatives. This is not the case.

¹ Contribution from the Zoölogical Laboratory of the University of Washington.

In America the species is injurious to *Fragaria* (strawberry) but appears to breed only in *Linaria*. In addition, it has been reported from the flowers of dandelion, wild mustard, clover, apple, and panicle dogwood. Specimens have been reported from Boston, Mass., Milford, Conn., Long Island, N. Y., and Albany, Dutchess, Columbia, Essex, Genesee, Greene, Niagara, Onondaga, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, and Tompkins Counties, N. Y.